Improvement of agriculture.

151. * **Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai**: Will the Government be pleased to state the measures adopted by them in 1120 to improve agriculture and the condition of the agriculturists?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The following measures have been adopted to improve agriculture and the condition of the agriculturists:—

(i) Stocking and sale of large quantities of chemical and organic manures for helping the 'Grow More Food' Campaign.

(ii) Cultural demonstrations on ryots' lands to illustrate the possibilities of augmenting grain yield by using scientific manures, better seeds and improved implements.

(iii) Distribution of selected seeds among the agriculturists for cultivation.

(iv) Manufacture and sale of town refuse and nightsoil compost for augmenting the local production of organic manures.

(v) Adoption of measures for controlling crop pests.

(vi) Propaganda for putting every bit of available land under some food crop or other.

Plantain disease.

152. * **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what amount has been spent till the end of Medom 1120 in connection with the cure of plantain diseases;

(*b*) the area affected by the "Plantain disease" till the end of 1119; and

(*c*) the number of plantains that were subjected to destruction on account of "Plantain disease"?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) Rs. 6,429 chs. 25 c. 6.

(*b*) About 140 sq. miles.

(*c*) 3,18,537 till the end of Mithunam 1120.

'Bunchi top' disease.

153. * **Mr. N. Narayana Kurup** (*Karunayapalli, Karthikapalli and Ambalapuzha cum Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the divisions where 'Bunchi top' disease is rampant;

(*b*) the total acreage affected;

(*c*) the total number of plantains to be destroyed;

(*d*) whether the disease is curable; and

(*e*) whether the 'Bunchi top' disease can be brought under control without destroying the plant?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) Kottayam Division particularly Kottayam taluk.

(*b*) About 250 sq. miles till the end of Mithunam 1120.

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